

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

5           1. (currently amended) A process for preparing a protective barrier for a container  
              having an internal surface comprising the steps of:

- a) plasma polymerizing under partial vacuum and in an oxygen-rich atmosphere  
              a first organosilicon compound under conditions to deposit a  
              polyorganosiloxane layer of uniform thickness onto the internal surface of the  
10           container; and
- b) plasma polymerizing under partial vacuum a second organosilicon compound  
              under conditions to deposit a silicon oxide layer of uniform thickness  
              superposing the same or a different polyorganosiloxane layer,

15           wherein oxygen and the first and second organosilicon compounds are fed through  
              a tubular, open-ended, porous injector positioned within the container and  
              porosity of the injector increases toward the base of the container and wherein an  
              electromagnetic field is applied from outside of the container to ignite and sustain  
              plasma.

20           2. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein plasma polymerizing steps are carried out  
              at such power densities and concentrations of the first and second organosilicon  
              compounds and for such a time so that the combined thickness of the  
              polyorganosiloxane and silicon oxide layers is less than 400 Å.

25           3. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the first plasma polymerizing step is  
              carried out at a deposition rate of greater than 50 Å/sec and less than 500 Å/sec and  
              the second plasma polymerizing step is carried out at a deposition rate of greater than  
              10 and less than 100 Å/sec.

4. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the first plasma polymerizing step is carried out at a deposition rate of greater than 100 Å/sec and less than 200 Å/sec and the second plasma polymerizing step is carried out at a deposition rate of not less than 30 Å/sec and not greater than 60 Å/sec.
5. (original) The process of Claim 3 wherein the total plasma polymerizing deposition time is not more than 10 seconds.
6. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the polyorgansiloxane is represented by the formula  $\text{SiO}_x\text{C}_y\text{H}_z$ , where x is in the range of 1.0 to 2.4, y is in the range of 0.2 to 2.4, and z is not more than 4, and the silicon oxide layer is represented by the formula  $\text{SiO}_x$ , where x is from 1.5 to 2.0.
7. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the container comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of a polyalkylene terephthalate, a polyolefin, and a polylactic acid.
8. (original) The process of Claim 7 wherein the plastic is selected from the group consisting of a polyethylene terephthalate, a polyethylene, and a polypropylene.
9. (currently amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the ~~oxygen and the first and second organosilicon compounds are fed through an injector which is porous, open-ended, is further characterized by being~~ longitudinally reciprocating, rotating, coaxial, or combinations thereof.
10. (currently amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the ~~oxygen and the first and second organosilicon compounds are fed through an open-ended porous injector extends positioned within the container and extending~~ almost the length of the container.
11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein porosity increases in a stepwise fashion.

13. (currently amended) The process of Claim 14 wherein porosity increases in a continuous fashion.
14. (currently amended) The process of Claim 14 wherein the inside and the outside of the container are both maintained at a partial vacuum, wherein the partial vacuum of the outside of the container is set a) so as not to allow plasma formation on the outside of the container; and b) so as to be different from the partial vacuum on the inside of the container.
15. (original) The process of Claim 14 wherein the partial vacuum on the inside of the container is in the range of about 20  $\mu$ bar to about 200  $\mu$ bar, and the partial vacuum on the outside of the container is 20 mbar to about 100 mbar or less than 10  $\mu$ bar.

16-20. (canceled)